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Agricultural Adjustment Administration  
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION  
PROGRAM FOR THE NORTHEAST REGION FOR 1936

The following questions and answers are given to illustrate the operation of the new Agricultural Conservation Program in the Northeast Region for 1936 under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of February 29, 1936.

PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM

1. Q. What are the objectives of the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program?  
A. The objectives in 1936 as stated in the Act are:
  - (1) To preserve and improve soil fertility;
  - (2) To promote the economic use and conservation of land;
  - (3) To reduce the exploitation, wasteful, and unscientific use of soil resources;
  - (4) To protect rivers and harbors against the results of soil erosion.
2. Q. How will the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program bring about soil conservation and improvement?  
A. By encouraging farmers to plant soil-building and soil-conserving crops and to adopt soil-building and soil-conserving practices.
3. Q. What funds are available for carrying out the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act?  
A. The Act authorizes annual appropriations of not more than \$500,000,000. The amount available for the 1936 program is approximately \$470,000,000.
4. Q. How will farmers receive payments from funds appropriated?  
A. For 1936, payments to farmers will be made direct from the Federal Government.  
  
After states have enacted necessary legislation and have submitted approved plans (not later than 1938) the funds are to be allocated to states and payments to farmers are to be made by the states.
5. Q. How are allocations to states to be determined?  
A. The Act provides that: "in determining the amount to be apportioned to each State, the Secretary shall take into consideration the acreage and value of the major soil-depleting and major export crops produced in the respective States during a representative period and the acreage and productivity of land devoted to agricultural production (including dairy products) in the respective States during a representative period..."

6. Q. For 1936, will total payments to farmers in each state be in line with the principles laid down for determining allocations to states?  
A. Yes, the 1936 program is calculated to give a distribution of payments among states that will be in line with these principles.
7. Q. How are consumers of agricultural products protected under the Act?  
A. The Act provides that due regard shall be given to the maintenance of a continuous and stable supply of agricultural commodities adequate to meet consumers' demands at prices fair to both consumers and producers and to the production of supplies of food and fibers adequate to maintain normal domestic consumption.
8. Q. What is the goal of soil-building and soil-conserving crops in 1936?  
A. To increase soil-building and soil-conserving crops by about 30,000,000 acres or 30 percent of the 1930 acreage in these crops.
9. Q. Will the Secretary of Agriculture enter into contracts with producers under the Agricultural Conservation Program?  
A. No.
10. Q. Where can producers obtain information about the program?  
A. From County Extension Agents' offices and the county and community committeemen.

#### PUTTING THE PROGRAM INTO OPERATION

11. Q. Who is to administer the program?  
A. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the State Extension Service, a State committee of which the majority of the members are producers, and county and community committeemen.
12. Q. How do producers who are not committeemen participate in the administration of the program?  
A. Through membership in the County Agricultural Conservation Association and election of committeemen.
13. Q. Who are members of the county association?  
A. Any person owning or operating a farm in the county is considered a member.
14. Q. What is the county committee?  
A. The county committee is composed of three members of the association.

15. Q. What are the duties of the county committee?  
A. The duties are as follows:  
(1) Review all documents filed with them and make recommendations to the Secretary;  
(2) Conduct such investigations as may be necessary in the performance of its duties; and  
(3) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed.
16. Q. What is the community committee?  
A. The community committee is composed of three members of the association living in the community.
17. Q. What are the duties of the community committee?  
A. The duties are as follows:  
(1) Assisting in preparing, checking, receiving, and approving all documents submitted by producers; and  
(2) Making recommendations for payments.
18. Q. What are the principal forms to be used by producers in 1936?  
A. (1) A work sheet for establishing farm bases;  
(2) An application for a grant showing the use of the land in 1936.
19. Q. What is the purpose of the work sheet?  
A. The purpose of the work sheet is to obtain necessary information about farming conditions and practices and to help the producer plan his farming operations so that he may participate in the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1936.
20. Q. Who may file a work sheet?  
A. Any producer who is an owner, landlord, cash tenant, standing or fixed-rent tenant, or share-tenant operating an entire farm.
21. Q. Who will assist the producer in filling out a work sheet?  
A. A committeeman, or an assistant from the county agent's office.
22. Q. Can an owner or landlord submit a work sheet covering a farm being operated by a cash tenant, or standing or fixed-rent tenant?  
A. No, for such a farm the work sheet should be submitted by the operator.
23. Q. Should a producer who owns, operates or controls more than one farm submit a work sheet covering each of his farms?  
A. Yes.
24. Q. May a share-tenant who is renting land from two or more owners or landlords file a separate work sheet covering all such land?  
A. No, he should file a work sheet covering each tract of land.



25. Q. If the producer's farm is mortgaged or is being purchased on installments, should the person to whom he is obligated sign the work sheet or application?
- A. No. Only the producer would sign the work sheet or application.
26. Q. If a farm is located in more than one county, in which county should the work sheet and application be submitted?
- A. They should be submitted in the county in which the farm-operating headquarters is located, or, in the absence of headquarters on the farm, in the county in which the major part of the farm is located.

#### CROP CLASSIFICATION

27. Q. What are the soil-depleting crops on which payments may be made for acreage diversion?
- A. The following crops are soil-depleting crops on which payments may be made for acreage diversion:
1. Corn (including sweet corn and popcorn)
  2. Tobacco.
  3. Irish potatoes.
  4. Sweet potatoes.
  5. All commercial canning and truck crops, including melons and strawberries.
  6. Field beans, if harvested.
  7. Small grains, including wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, and small grain mixtures, if harvested for either grain or hay and not used as an approved nurse crop.
  8. Annual grasses, including Sudan, and millets, if harvested for hay or seed.
  9. Summer legumes, including soybeans, field peas, and cowpeas, if harvested as grain or hay.
28. Q. What are the approved soil-building crops?
- A. The following crops are classified as soil-building:
1. Annual legumes, including vetch, winter peas, bur and crimson clover, soybeans, and cowpeas, when turned under as a green manure crop.
  2. Biennial legumes, including sweet, red, alsike, and Mammoth clovers; and perennial legumes, including alfalfa and white clover; without a nurse crop or with an approved nurse crop.
  3. Forest trees, planted in 1936, and not pastured.

29. Q. What are the approved soil-conserving crops?

A. The following crops are classified as soil-conserving:

1. Annual legumes, including vetch, winter peas, and crimson clover; and Lespedeza, when pastured or harvested for hay or seed.
2. Annual grasses; including Sudan and millets, when pastured or left on the land.
3. Perennial grasses, including bluegrass, orchard, redtop, and mixtures of these, without a nurse crop or with an approved nurse crop.
4. Winter cover crops, such as rye, barley, oats or grain mixtures, winter pastured or not, and turned under as a green manure crop.
5. Crop acreage planted to forest trees since January 1, 1934, and not pastured.

30. Q. What uses of land are neither soil-depleting, soil-building, nor soil-conserving and which cannot be counted in establishing bases?

A.

1. Vineyards, tree fruits, small fruits, or nut trees, (not interplanted). a/
2. Idle cropland. b/
3. Cultivated fallow land, including clean cultivated orchards and vineyards. c/
4. Wasteland, roads, lanes, lots, yards, etc.
5. Woodland, other than that planted since January 1, 1934.

31. Q. What are the approved soil-building and soil-conserving practices?

A. A list of practices will be recommended by the State Committee for approval by the Secretary of Agriculture.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF BASES

32. Q. What is the first step an individual farmer should take to participate in the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1936?

A. He should file a work sheet and determine the soil-depleting crop base for his farm.

a/ If interplanted, such acreage shall carry the classification and actual acreage of the intercrop grown.

b/ Where, due to unusual weather conditions, crop land was left idle in 1935, it may be reclassified upon recommendation of the State Committee and approval of the Secretary.

c/ Cultivated fallow land may be otherwise classified upon recommendation of the State Committee and approval of the Secretary.

33. Q. How will the soil-depleting base be determined?  
A. By taking the 1935 harvested acreage of crops on the farm and making any necessary adjustments. Tobacco bases, wherever established, will be used in lieu of the 1935 acreage of tobacco.
34. Q. Will a separate base be established for each soil-depleting crop?  
A. In the Northeast Region a separate base will be established for tobacco, but all other soil-depleting crops will be combined in establishing a base.

#### RATES AND CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

35. Q. What classes of payments will be made to producers?  
A. Class I, or soil-conserving payments.  
Class II, or soil-building payments.
36. Q. For what are the Class I or soil-conserving payments made?  
A. These payments will be made for planting a part of the base acreage of soil-depleting crops to soil-building and soil-conserving crops or devoting part of the soil-depleting base acreage to approved soil-conserving and soil-building practices.
37. Q. What is the rate of the Class I or soil-conserving payments?  
A. For soil-depleting crops other than tobacco, the rate of the soil-conserving payment varies among States, counties, and individual farms according to the productivity of the land but the average for the United States will be around \$10 per acre.
38. Q. What is the maximum acreage of soil-depleting crops, other than tobacco, on which payment will be made for planting soil-building and soil-conserving crops?  
A. 15 percent of the base acreage for such crops.
39. Q. What is the rate of the Class I payment for each acre of the tobacco base planted in soil-building and soil-conserving crops?  
A. (1) 4 cents per pound of the normal yield for Connecticut Valley types 51 and 52.  
(2) 3 cents per pound of the normal yield for Pennsylvania and New York types 41 and 53.
40. Q. What is the maximum percentage of the total base acreage on which payment will be made for planting soil-building and soil-conserving crops?  
A. Thirty percent.
41. Q. Will the rate of the Class I (soil-conserving) payment vary from the basic rate specified or to be specified for diversion from soil-depleting crops?  
A. It may, but in no case may the variation be more than 10 percent.



42. Q. Why may the rate of the Class I (soil-conserving) payment vary from the basic rate specified?
- A. The rates specified are based upon an estimate of available funds and an estimate of approximately 80 percent participation by farmers. If participation in any region differs from the estimate, all the rates specified may be reduced or increased in that region pro rata. As has been stated, in no case will the rates be increased or decreased more than 10 percent.
43. Q. What are the approved uses which may be made of the land formerly used for production of soil-depleting crops?
- A. The approved uses are as follows:
- (1) Planting soil-building crops.
  - (2) Planting soil-conserving crops.
  - (3) Following approved soil-building practices.
44. Q. For what are Class II (soil-building) payments made?
- A. These payments will be made for planting approved soil-building crops or carrying out approved soil-building practices.
45. Q. What is the rate of the Class II (soil-building) payment for planting approved soil-building crops or following approved soil-building practices?
- A. The rate for particular crops or practices is to be recommended by the State committee for the approval of the Secretary.
46. Q. Is there a limit on the Class II payment for a farm?
- A. Yes. This payment cannot exceed an amount calculated by multiplying by \$1 the total acres of soil-conserving crops and soil-building crops on the farm in 1936, except that the payment may be as much as \$10 for any farm having less than 10 acres of soil-building and soil-conserving crops.
47. Q. How will the per acre rate of payment for planting a particular soil-building crop or devoting land to a particular soil-building practice be determined?
- A. The State committee will recommend rates for the planting of various approved soil-building crops, and for the carrying out of soil-building practices. These rates may be more or less than \$1 per acre, but as has been stated before, the total soil-building payment to the farm cannot exceed \$1 for each acre of soil-building crops plus each acre of soil-conserving crops, or \$10 for the farm, whichever is greater.
48. Q. To whom will the Class II (soil-building) payment be made?
- A. To the producer who incurred the expense with reference to soil-building crops or practices. Where two or more producers incurred the expense, the soil-building payment will be divided between them.

49. Q. How will the Class I (soil-conserving) payment be divided?  
A. The soil-conserving payment will be divided among owners, share-tenants, and share-croppers in the same proportion as the principal soil-depleting crop or the proceeds thereof are divided under their lease or operating agreement unless a different basis is recommended by the State committee and approved by the Secretary.
50. Q. What are the minimum requirements as to acreage in soil-conserving and soil-building uses on the farm in 1936?  
A. In order to receive full payment, the total acreage of soil-conserving and soil-building crops on crop land on the farm in 1936 must equal or exceed either (a) 20 percent of the base acreages of all soil-depleting crops for the farm, or (b) the maximum acreage on which Class I or soil-conserving payments could be obtained pursuant to the provisions of the program.
51. Q. Can a farmer qualify for full payment with an acreage of soil-conserving and soil-building crops smaller than 20 percent of his base?  
A. Yes. The acreage used for soil-conserving and soil-building crops and practices is not required to exceed the maximum acreage on which a soil-conserving payment could be obtained.
52. Q. May a farmer be required to have an acreage greater than 20 percent of his base used for soil-conserving and soil-building crops and practices in order to receive full payment?  
A. Yes. The number of acres used for these purposes must equal at least the acreage on which soil-conserving payment is obtained.
53. Q. What deduction is made from payments in cases where the acreage of soil-conserving and soil-building crops is smaller than the required minimum?  
A. The deduction for each acre below the required minimum will be made at a rate equal to one and one-half times the rate of the Class I or soil-conserving payment for soil-depleting crops other than tobacco.
54. Q. If a producer increases his acreage planted to any soil-depleting crop above the base acreage established for such crop, may he still receive payments?  
A. He may receive payments if he has qualified otherwise, but an amount will be deducted from his total payment equal to the soil-conserving payment for the excess acreage, on the same basis that he would have received for diverting the same number of acres.
55. Q. When will payments be made?  
A. As soon as possible after the producer has made application and has established proof that he has met the conditions of the grant.

56. Q. How must signatures appear on documents relating to the Agricultural Conservation Program?
- A. Signatures should be written in ink. The applicant should sign his name the same way on all documents. Many delays will be eliminated if this procedure is followed.

#### ADMINISTRATION

57. Q. What Federal Agency will be in charge of the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1936?
- A. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture.
58. Q. What is the regional setup for the United States?
- A. The United States has been divided into five regions for administrative purposes. They are:

- (1) The East Central Region: Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware.
- (2) The Southern Region: South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.
- (3) The Northeast Region: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.
- (4) The North Central Region: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota.
- (5) The Western Region: North Dakota, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

59. Q. Will a producer be given the privilege of appealing from the recommendations of the county committee?
- A. Yes. Appeals from the recommendations of the county committee may be made in accordance with instructions to be issued by the Secretary.

#### DEFINITIONS

60. Q. What is meant by "crop land"?
- A. "Crop land" means all land from which any crop (other than wild hay) was harvested in 1935, together with all other farm land which is tillable and from which at least one crop (other than wild hay) has been harvested since January 1, 1930.
61. Q. What is meant by the term "owner"?
- A. With reference to the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program, "owner" means a person who actually owns land which is not rented to another for cash or a fixed commodity payment; a person who rents land from another for cash or for a fixed commodity payment; or who is purchasing land on installments for cash or a fixed commodity payment.



62. Q. What is meant by the term "share-tenant"?

A. A person other than the owner or share-cropper who is operating an entire farm without direct supervision of the owner and who is entitled to a portion of the crops produced on the farm or the proceeds thereof.

63. Q. What is meant by the term "share-cropper"?

A. "Share-cropper" means a person who works a farm in whole or in part and who receives for his labor a proportionate share of the crops produced thereon, or the proceeds thereof.

64. Q. What is meant by the term "farming unit"?

A. "Farming unit" means land under the supervision of an operator which is farmed by that operator in 1936 as a single unit, with workstock, farm machinery, and labor substantially separate from that for any other land.

65. Q. What is meant by the term "grant"?

A. With reference to the 1936 program "grant" means any payment to farmers under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.